

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In order to hasten the prosecution of the present application, the present Amendment incorporates features indicated as being allowable in the pending Office Action, reserving the right to amend the claims back to their originally filed form in the event that the present application is not allowed.

Claims 9 and 18 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 12, and 14-17 have been canceled.

Floppy Disk

Per the Patent Office's request, Applicant has enclosed a floppy disk containing all pending claims along with Applicant's responsive remarks. Applicant understands that only the paper copy will be entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Patent Office has indicated that "Claims 9 and 18 are allowed" (Office Action, Pages 2). Applicant herein thanks the Patent Office.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 10, 12 and 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nessel et al. ("Nessel", U.S. Patent No. 5,727,145) in view of Rangarajan et al. ("Rangarajan", U.S. Patent No. 6,185,609). Claims 7-8 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nessel and Rangarajan in view of the APA. Applicant respectfully disagrees. However, Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 12, and 14-17 have been canceled.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in the case.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
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By: _____

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